



**Georgia Department of Education
Office of the State Superintendent of Schools
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**Linda C. Schrenko
State Superintendent of Schools**

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<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/nutrition/snp.html>
April 28, 2000

FD2000 Project Coordinator
Food Distribution Division - FNS
3101 Park Center Drive
Ford Avenue Bldg. - Room 601
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Project Coordinator:

As a Nutrition Education and Training Specialist for the State of Georgia and member of the American School Food Service Association, I would like to make the following comments about the February 14, 2000, USDA Proposal for Change.

Of all the lunch meals, which I have eaten this past year, the school lunch meal leaves me with the best sense of nutritional quality. The quality is superior while being economically affordable. The USDA products are a mainstay for school meals. Quality can be seen with the eye, and the high standards of the School Nutrition Program must be maintained. If substitution is allowed, then the quality could be reduced. The bid commercial products already reduce the quality from the ones that are presented at "can cutting". The quality of the food could be further reduced if commercial products are substituted. The student does not have a route of voicing their concerns, so we have to speak for them now to prevent a change to commercial products. ***Please do not allow vendors to use commercial labels and to expand full substitutability of commodity product.*** Accountability and food safety would be big issues and result in new problems for recipient agencies if these two concepts are implemented.

There is too little information on USDA's website and in the proposal for change to comment on the pilots. I strongly feel that prior to beginning the pilots, baseline information/data, expected outcomes, and evaluation methods be established and published.

I do trust that tabulated comment information will be available for access so I can see the nature of other comments submitted in response to the proposal for changes? Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paulette".

Paulette Williams M Ed, RD, LD, CDE
Nutrition Specialist